

THE REMINISCENCES OF CARL
SCHURZ

in that crowd struggling for your overcoat? Let
us sit down
and have a glass of Apollinaris." We sat down
by a small
round table, a bottle of Apollinaris water was
brought and he
began at once to ply me with questions about
America.

He was greatly interested in the struggle then
going on
between President Johnson and the Republican
majority in
Congress, which was then approaching its final
crisis. He said
;hat he looked upon that struggle as a test of
the strength of
the conservative element in our political fabric.
Would the im-
peachment of the President and, if he were
found guilty, his
[reposition from office, lead to any further
conflicts dangerous
to the public peace and order? I replied that I was
convinced it
could not; the executive power would simply
pass from the
hands of one man to the hands of another
according to the
constitution and the laws of the country without
any resistance
on the part of anybody; and on the other hand,
if President
Johnson were acquitted, there would be general
submission to
the verdict as a matter of course, although
popular excitement
stirred up by the matter ran very high throughout
the country.
The Chancellor was too polite to tell me point
blank that
he had grave doubts as to all this, but he would
at least not
;t me believe that he thought as I did. He
smilingly asked me
Whether I was still as firmly convinced a
republican as I had

een before I went to America and studied
republicanism from
le inside; and when I assured him that I was,
and that, al-
lough I had in personal experience found the
republic not as
>vely as my youthful enthusiasm had
pictured it to my
nagination, but much more practical in its
general beneficence
) the great masses of the people, and much more
conservative
i its tendencies than I had imagined, he said that
he supposed
or impressions or views with regard to such things
were largely
wing to temperament, or education, or
traditional ways of